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## SATIRIC COINS AND MEDALS.

It is our good fortune to possess a faultless impression in silver of the medal which Evelyn denominates "that ever memorable and Triumphant Piece of the Defeat of the *Spanish Armada* (*Anno Mirabili* 1588)". According to that learned and amiable writer it presents us, "in its *Antic* and *Fore-Table*", with "A formal Convention of the *Pope* and *Cardinals*, *Bishops*, *Emperour*, K. *Philip* II. and other Potentates in their Robes of State, sitting in Consultation; bound about their Eyes and Blindfold; the ends of the Fillets sticking up (mistaken by *Monsieur Bigot* for *Asses Ears*) on their several Heads, on which this *Inscription*. O · COECAS · HOMINVM · MENTES | O · PECTORA · COECA and about the *Circle*, DVRVM · EST · CONTRA · STIMVLOS · CALCITRARE · In *Postica*: A Fleet of Ships dash'd against Rocks and sinking - VENI · VIDE · VIVE · 1588 · About the *Circle*, TV · DEVS · MAGNVS · ET · MAGNA · FACIS · TV · SOLVS · DEVS · This Medal weigh'd in Gold near three Ounces". We have only to add to Evelyn's description the translations of the legends and a remark or two upon them. The first one is from the poet Lucretius, and signifies: Oh the blind minds of men, oh their blind hearts! The origin of the second: "It is hard to kick against the pricks" is known to every one. So literal has the designer been in his rendering of the idea that the floor on which the feet of the calcitrant personages rest is actually composed of sharp points. The words "Come, See, Live!" are supposed to be addressed to Queen Elizabeth by the citizens of Amsterdam, who, after contributing, together with their countrymen, to the overthrow of the Armada, by preventing the Duke of Parma from co-operating with it, now invite the victoress to come to the sea-shore and behold the wreck of the Spanish vessels\*. The remaining words constitute the tenth verse of Psalm LXXXVI: "For thou art great and doest wondrous things; thou art God alone".

Here then we have a historical monument indeed! Had but that indomitable Alexander Farnese, "*Holofernese*", Duke of Parma, once landed his Spanish veterans in England, neither the Amazonian Queen, nor her incompetent Leicester could have stood against him for a fortnight; and the whole course of subsequent history would have been changed. But there were two "if"s in the way, one taking the guise of contrary and tempestuous winds; and another, the shape of English fire-ships and firing ships; and, over and above all these, a superintending Providence, as some men think. Howsoever this may be, the "demon of the South" was exorcised, Motley's "elderly letter-writer of the Escorial" wasted his ink, and the great conspiracy against human rights came to naught.

There is a little work in Latin, published at Altenburg in Germany, in 1765, the author of which, Christian Adolph Klotz, entitles it "A History of Contumelious and Satyric Coins". It is, however, a mere breaking of the ground, and not a full harvesting of the subject. The task of enumerating, explaining and illustrating this class of pieces, remains to be performed in a more thorough manner and in some modern tongue. From our own experience we infer that satyric coins and medals are rare, and difficult to obtain. Their nature makes them likely to be much shown about, and consequently lost or defaced. Not few are of a coarse or indecent character, and require to be delicately touched by their

\* Bizot. *Histoire Métallique de la République de Hollande*. Paris, 1687; p. 59, 61.

describer; but for that very reason perhaps they might make a gamy dish for jaded appetites.

Should a new book of this kind be attempted, our own political contests would be found to supply a number of specimens appropriate to its object. At the close of President Jackson's administration and the beginning of that of Van Buren, or in and about the year 1837, appeared a copious crop of satirical tokens, like the old copper cent in size and material, but bearing odd devices and legends, such as: the General in a safe, holding a sword and a money-bag; I TAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY, *rev.* a jackass inscribed LLD; around him, ROMAN FIRMNESS, VETO, THE CONSTITUTION AS I UNDERSTAND IT: the General's bust on which MY, beneath it EXPERIMENT, MY CURRENCY MY GLORY; and around it MY SUBSTITUTE FOR THE U. S. BANK; *rev.* a hog running, inscribed MY THIRD HEAT, above it MY VICTORY, beneath it DOWN WITH THE BANK, around it PERISH CREDIT PERISH COMMERCE 1834: and a jackass running, above it I FOLLOW IN THE, beneath it STEPS OF MY, around it ILLUSTRIOUS PREDECESSOR; *rev.* on the back of a tortoise a safe inscribed SUB-TREASURY, beneath it 1837 FISCAL AGENT, around it EXECUTIVE EXPERIMENT. These and several others deserve and will one day receive complete and correct enumeration, together with such comments as may exhibit their connection with party-strifes and financial troubles.

#### OUR ABORIGINAL COINAGE.

In our May number for the current year we introduced from the "American Naturalist" some remarks on the shell-money of barbarous tribes, or rather tribes beginning thereby to emerge from barbarism. Aside from the use of *Dentalium* on the Pacific coast, we do not recognize, as established by evidence, the employment of any circulating medium among the extinct or decaying races of North America, other than the *Wampum* or *Seawant* of the nations who dwelt in what is now our own vicinity. These bugle-shaped beads, made of the shell of the *Quabaug*, or clam, were the ordinary currency in our Dutch colonial days, six of the white ones, or three of the purple, passing for an English penny or Dutch stuyver. Information in regard to it is easily obtainable from local histories and the transactions of historical societies. On the more general aspect of the subject, we take pleasure in citing from Dr. Daniel Wilson's "Prehistoric Man" the following excellent résumé:

"To the geologist the shells of the testaceous molluscs offer a department in palæontology of very wide application and peculiar value. They constitute, indeed, one of the most important among those records which the earth's crust discloses, whereby its geological history can be deciphered. But the special phases of interest which they possess for the ethnologist and archæologist result from the evidence they furnish in illustration of the history of man and his arts. The mere beauty and variety of many marine shells sufficiently account for their selection as objects of personal adornment; while their large and solid structure, and the readiness with which their substance can be wrought into a variety of forms, must have suggested their employment in the earliest stages of insular art. Thus they became natural substitutes for the still unknown commoner metals; while, like the precious metals, shells have been used, both in the Old and New World, as primitive forms of a recognized currency. Of such the *Cypræa moneta* is the most familiar. The cowrie shells used as currency are procured on the coast of Congo, and in the Philippine and Maldive Islands. Of the latter, indeed, they constitute the chief article of export. At what remote date, or at what early stage of rudimentary civilization this singular representative shell-currency was introduced, it is perhaps vain to inquire; but the extensive area over which it has long been recognized proves its great antiquity. The Philippine Islands form, in part, the western boundary of the Southern Pacific, and the Maldives lie off the Malabar coast in the Indian Ocean; but their shells circulate as currency not only through Southern Asia, but far into the African continent."

"Corresponding to this cowry-currency of Asia and Africa, is the American *Iouqua*, or *Dentalium*, a shell found chiefly at the entrance of the Straits of De Fuca, and employed both for ornament and money. The Chinooks and other Indians of the Northern Pacific Coast wear long strings of *iouqua* shells as necklaces and fringes to their robes. These have a value assigned to them increasing in proportion to their size, which varies from about an inch and a half to upwards of two inches in length. The author of *Wanderings of an Artist among the Indians of North America* writes to me in reference to them: 'A great trade is carried on among all the tribes in the neighborhood of Vancouver's Island, through the medium of these shells. Forty shells of the standard size, extending a fathom's length, are equal in value to a beaver's skin, but if shells can be found so far in excess of the ordinary standard that thirty-nine are long enough to make the fathom, it is worth two

beaver's skins; if thirty-eight, three beaver's skins, and so on: increasing in value one beaver-skin for every shell less than the first number."

"No evidence appears to indicate the use of the marine or fresh-water shells of Europe as a species of currency; but it is interesting to notice that the mode of employing the spoils of the sea for personal decoration, by the rude Indians of the North-west, prevailed among the primitive inhabitants of Europe in that dim dawn of history revealed by the disclosures of their most ancient sepulchral deposits."

The subject leads us to make mention of a treatise rarely, if ever, named or referred to, in the pages of this JOURNAL. "The American Numismatic Manual of the Currency or Money of the Aborigines, and Colonial, State and United States Coins", by Montroville Wilson Dickeson, M. D., a copy of the third edition of which, published at Philadelphia in 1865, is before us, holds undisputed possession of the entire literary and scientific ground which it claims; and thus it represents American Numismatics before the world. But no one is satisfied with it or speaks of it with respect. Very pretentious yet quite incorrect and inelegant as to style; with much parade of knowledge and boldness of affirmation, yet deficient in research and conscientious accuracy; it waits to be supplanted in due time by some better production to which we honestly think that it will not contribute much material. All the work done by its author requires to be carefully gone over again by some more zealous laborer, with a higher sense of what constitutes exactness, and more resolution in lopping off conjectures which he cannot verify. We have not undertaken to review this "Manual," or attempted to amend or controvert it piece-meal, because we are too conscious of the great familiarity with the rarer American pieces, and with historical works and records not often read, on which alone we could safely proceed in such a course. So much by way of reparation to the writer, in case we have spoken too harshly of his book. Meanwhile we have received intimations that our colonial coinage will ere long be properly discussed in print by a numismatist whose intelligence and scrupulous precision are unsurpassed among the fraternity. It is certain that, in carrying out his purpose, he will secure a reputation in proportion to the difficulties of his task.

We are moved, in the interim, to clear the way for this coming man, by disposing of Dr. Dickeson's so-called "Aboriginal Coins." On his first four plates he exhibits to us representations of circular pieces of lignite and coal, terra-cotta, stone, gold, and copper, together with some lumps of galena—of which objects some are strangely marked with lines, and some with cavities—to which add certain joints of fossil Encrinurites—found, each and all, in mounds of the Mississippi valley, and described in Part II, title "Aboriginal Coins or Money." When we first beheld these curiosities, thus depicted and explained, we were staggered, then sceptical, and finally inclined to wait for further enlightenment. It came in the form of Dr. Wilson's elucidation of such disks, all of which, like Dr. Dickeson's, have been discovered in mounds, sacrificial and sepulchral, and nowhere else—neither in the river-bottoms which those ancient earth-pilers cultivated, nor in the extensive and formidable ramparts which they constructed for military defence. That they were coins is a supposition altogether gratuitous, a theory or assumption which observed facts do not warrant, but rather contradict.

In describing the clay basins or altars which the sacrificial mounds enclose, Dr. Wilson informs us that within their focus "are found numerous relics: elaborate carvings in stone, ornaments cut in mica, copper implements, *disks*, and tubes, pearl, shell, and silver beads, and various other objects" (p. 237): in one mound "the whole area was covered with two layers of *disks of horn stone*, some round and others oblong. Upwards of six hundred were taken out, and it was estimated that the entire deposit numbered little short of four thousand" (p. 240): in another, "a series of round plates of mica, ten inches or a foot in diameter, were regularly disposed, overlapping each other like the scales of a fish" (p. 243). But nowhere in this cautious and philosophic compilation are we told that such disks or plates were *coins*, while the "Grave Creek Stone" with its "hieroglyphic" inscription, which Dr. Dickeson includes among his "Stone Money", is by the more sagacious author of "Prehistoric Man" set down as a forgery devised by the proprietor of Grave Creek Mound to add to the attractions of his show.

Dr. Wilson is content to call these highly curious disks, whether found in sacrificial or in sepulchral localities, by the name of "offerings", and ventures no further: but Dr. Dickeson assures us

\* "Prehistoric Man," by Daniel Wilson, LL.D., Professor, &c., in University College, Toronto, second edition, Lond. 1865, pp. 127-9.

† The very first paragraph of the Introduction is a curiosity in composition: "Having no parentage in the arts, except from our famous old mother, England—our predecessors, the aborigines, when we came among them upon this continent, being armed with, and possessed of no traces of civilization, not since exhumed from their mounds, and they superseded in value by the progress of the arts of other nations—we not only trace our lineage to her, but in our connection, otherwise, as nation and pupil so long, look to her records and acts. Hence, to begin where she did in coinage, and follow it up to the period when, having set up for ourselves, we adopted a national coinage of our own, cannot but be both entertaining and instructive".



that "such coins" "were undoubtedly as highly prized by their aboriginal possessors as are those of the present day by us; and they were, unquestionably, as subservient to the laws of value and exchange as is a more modern coinage now."

On the whole we are of opinion that the writer of the next work on the American Coinage may dispense with a preliminary exposition of that of the mound-rearers; and that the disks, however interesting, ought not to be admitted into numismatic cabinets till their case shall have been decided in a court of antiquaries on further hearing.\*

### THE QUEEN ANNE VIGO MEDALET. ITS HISTORY.

*Obverse*: A well executed bust of Queen Anne.

*Legend*: ANNA · D · G · MAG · BR · FR · ET · HIB · R ·

*Exergue*: The initial letters L G L. under the bust.

*Reverse*: Vigo bay and surroundings, showing the relative positions of "Joc", "Vigos", and "Cong.", the fleet, in the foreground, on the ocean.

*Legend*: ANGLOR · ET · BATAV · VIRTUTE ·

*Inscription*: INCENS · CLASSE OPES AMERIC INTERCEPT.

*Exergue*: 1702. Size 15. Brass.

This medalet was struck to commemorate the victory of the English and Dutch allied under Sir George Rooke ("Anglor · Et · Batav · Virtute ·"—By English and Dutch bravery) over the French and Spanish, commanded by Chateau Renault, at Vigo, Spain, Oct. 11, 1702, during the "War of the Spanish Succession".

Smollett (History of England, Vol. IX, page 287, Edition of 1769) gives an accurate description of the battle and says this captured plate and merchandise were from the West Indies, but Willson (Universal History, page 402) asserts that the French and Spanish fleet were "laden with the treasures of Spanish America". Either one of the above assertions would justify that part of the legend which connects the medalet with the history of our own country, viz.: OPES AMERIC.

The plate thus captured was minted into coin on which the word VIGO appeared under Queen Anne's head (Humphreys, Vol. II, page 485) in commemoration of the victory.

We had the good fortune to add the above medalet to our cabinet at the late sale, and regard it as being of historic value to our country, so seldom was any allusion made to America on coins or medals of that or previous periods.

I. J. C.

NEWARK, N. J., Oct. 1, 1869.

### NOVA CONSTELLATIO.

One side of a medal with this legend and bearing as a device an eye surrounded by a glory between the rays of which are thirteen stars, is represented in a copper-plate engraving forming a vignette to the title-page of the third volume of "Lettres d'un Cultivateur Américain, Paris, 1787". The corresponding vignette on the title-page of the second volume is the well-known reverse of the

\* Sincerely desirous as we are to do no injustice to Dr. Dickeson, we have taken the trouble to examine the best American authorities within our reach, in order to discover whether there be ground for his supposition that any of the relics met with in our mounds had the nature of coins. In Squier and Davis's "Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley", forming the first volume of the "Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge", Washington, 1848, we find only the following two passages to bear on the subject: "A large number of discs or medals of copper have been obtained from the mounds. They resemble, to use a familiar illustration, the bosses observed on harnesses. Some of them are not less than two inches, but most are about one inch and a half in diameter. They are formed of thin plates of copper, are perfectly round, and concavo-convex in shape. They are found only on the altar mounds, where they seem to have been placed with their edges together, in pairs. Owing to the great heat to which they have been subjected, and subsequent oxydation, nearly all of them are so cemented together that they cannot be separated without breaking them into fragments" (p. 206). "A few singular discs of stone have been discovered in the mounds \*\*\*\*\* They [certain examples from Paint Creek, a tributary of the Scioto river] are simple discs (cut from plates of stone) perfectly circular, but of variable thickness. The largest measures three inches and three fourths in diameter, by one inch and one tenth in thickness; the smallest, two and eight tenths, by nine tenths. They are of all intermediate sizes; a few have their edges slightly convex, but most are perfectly plane. Those first found by individuals residing in the vicinity, were called "weights", from their resemblance to the iron weights in common use. They are made of a very dense ferruginous stone, of a black or dark-brown ground, thickly interspersed with minute and brilliant specks of yellow mica; it receives a remarkably high polish, displaying the mica flakes with great beauty. \*\*\* It has been suggested that these stones were used in certain games, analogous to those known to have been practised by the North American tribes. The perfect polish of the edges of some of them weighs against this conclusion. They are certainly enigmatical in their purposes" (p. 221-2). In Haven's "Archæology of the United States", Smithsonian Contributions, Vol. VIII, Wash., 1856, we read that the true relics of the mounds were found to be—not coins—but, among other objects, "plates of mica, pieces of galena, and small portions of silver, hammered thin and made to cover some of the smaller ornaments" (p. 122). In Whittlesey's "Ancient Mining on the Shores of Lake Superior", Smith. Cont. Vol. XIII, Wash., 1863, we have discovered no mention of aboriginal coins. In the great national work on the Indian tribes, published by Congress, Schoolcraft regards all the discoidal stones found in the mounds as "antique quoits" (Part I. p. 82-3): and, in fine, we see no reason to change what we have written in the text.

"*Libertas Americana*", viz.: the infant Hercules defended by France against the leopard of Britain. But the vignette of volume first is one face of a medal with which we have no acquaintance, and which, as far as our knowledge extends, was never executed in metal. It represents, in a woody landscape, a funeral monument inscribed WAREN (*sic*) WOOSTER MONTGOMERY MERCER, at the foot of which lies a weeping female with a feather-wrought girdle. Legend, O MANES HEROUM VESTRA LIBERA EST PATRIA, O Shades of Heroes your Country is Free.

The book which contains these illustrations is described in Tuckerman's "*America and her Commentators*", pp. 88-94. It was originally published in English under the title of "*Letters from an American Farmer*", London, 1782. The author, Hector St. John Crèvecoeur, a native of Normandy, of noble birth, settled in America in 1754, and in 1783 became French consul at New York, where he remained in that capacity for ten years. He himself translated his "*Letters*" from his adopted language into his native tongue. In the words of Tuckerman: "They have a winsome flavor, and picture so delectably the independence, the resources, and the peace of an agricultural life, just before and after the Revolution, in the more settled States of America, that the reader of the present day cannot feel surprised that he beguiled many an emigrant from the Old World to the banks of the Ohio and the Delaware".

In a cursory examination of the French edition of 1787, we have found no comment on the title-vignettes, or any other information on the subject of American Numismatics; but it is evident that the class of books of which Tuckerman's excellent work constitutes a review should be carefully perused, under his guidance, by any one in search of scattered notices of our early coinage.

## TRANSACTIONS OF SOCIETIES.

### BOSTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.

The monthly meeting was held at the Library of the Horticultural Society on the afternoon of the 7th of October, the president, Mr. Colburn, in the chair.

Dr. S. A. Green called attention to the date and inscription of the Voltaire Medal of Washington, and showed one belonging to Mr. Crosby.

It was suggested that the die was still extant, as specimens of the medal are occasionally met with in very fine condition and struck in a different metal from those known as originals.

Dr. Green also called attention to the following extract from a letter of John Paul Jones to Mr. Jefferson, dated 9 Sept., 1788, to be found in Sherburne's *Life of Jones*, Washington, 1825, pp. 303, 304:

"Before I left Copenhagen, I wrote to Mr. Amoureux, merchant at L'Orient, to dispose of some articles of mine in his hands and remit you the amount. I hope he has done it, and that his remittance may be sufficient to pay Mr. Houdon and the expense of striking the medal with which I am honored by the United States. But, lest this should not turn out as I expect, I have directed Dr. Bancroft to pay any draft of yours on him for my account, as far as four or five thousand livres. I shall want four gold medals as soon as the dies are finished. I must present one to the United States, another to the King of France, and I cannot do less than offer one to the Empress. As you will keep the dies for me, it is my intention to have some gold medals struck; therefore I beg you, in the meantime, not to permit the striking of a single silver or copper medal."

"There is a medalist who executed three medals for me in wax. One of them is the battle between the Bon Homme Richard and the Serapis. The position of the two ships is not much amiss; but the accessory figures are much too near the principal objects; and he has placed them to windward instead of being, as they really were, to leeward of the Bon Homme Richard and Serapis. I do not at this moment recollect the medalist's name [Renaud]; but he lives on the 3d or 4th stage at a marble cutter's, almost opposite, but a little higher than your former house, Cul-de-sac Rue Taitebout, and may be easily found. It would be of use to see the medal he has made, although it is by no means to be copied. I owe him a small sum, perhaps 200 livres. I wish to know how much, that I may make an arrangement for paying."

After some conversation in relation to the issuing of the so-called Pattern Pieces by the Mint, the manner of their distribution, &c., the meeting adjourned to the 4th of November, when the Secretary of the Society, Mr. Appleton, would be present, having returned home, *via* the Pacific Railroad from California, finishing his tour of a year and a half around the world.

SAMUEL A. GREEN, *Acting Secretary*.

## NUMISMATIC AND ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY OF MONTREAL.

A very interesting meeting of this society was held at its rooms, on Wednesday evening last, Oct. 13, when it was decided to take steps toward procuring, at once, "An Act of Incorporation," with a view to placing it upon a firm basis, and enabling it to take a place among the other legally constituted societies of our city. A new feature has been added to the meetings in the reading of papers, &c., by the members, several well-known gentlemen, Rev. Dr. De Sola, and others, having consented to take part in the course. Orders have been given for the purchase of several Canadian coins and medals not as yet possessed by the society, and it is determined to secure for the Cabinet a complete collection of all pieces pertaining to Canada. During the evening the following members exhibited collections of coins, &c.:—Mr. McLachlan, a fine collection of bronze medals (Canadian); Mr. W. V. Hall, several rare American gold coins; Mr. Sandham, about eighty very fine bronze and white metal medals, principally American, also an old map of Villemarie (Montreal) in 1683.

## CORRESPONDENCE

## IN REGARD TO THE NEW JERSEY CENT OF 1787.

BOSTON, Oct. 17, 1869.

PROF. ANTHON:—DEAR SIR: I send you inclosed (with the consent of Dr. E. Maris, of Philadelphia) a copy of a letter written to him by me, regarding the New Jersey cent of 1787, with the horse's head to the left, described in the Sept. No. of the JOURNAL.

Please prune it (and this also) as it may need before presentation to the public. Dr. Maris says: "It might be stated with propriety, that W. J. Jenks and myself both arrived at the same conclusion in regard to the piece being a product of skilful modern ingenuity."

I will add that I have since writing that letter seen, and have now in my possession, a New Jersey cent of 1786 (which is owned by a gentleman in Brooklyn, N. Y.), upon which an alteration has been made similar to that upon the one bearing date 1787; but upon this, the *plough* also has been reversed.

The owner believes this to have been the work of Smith, who evidently "had his hand in" for such work, and the workmanship of this much resembles that of the other.

I have been fortunate enough to discover a fine impression of Reverse K of the cents of 1793, but combined with obverse 10, of plate in April No. of the JOURNAL, thus giving us another variety in class 3 of cents of that year.

This cent is owned by Mr. Wm. Fewsmith of Camden, New Jersey, who has kindly loaned it to me for purposes of description and illustration. Any person owning a good specimen of either variety needed to improve the plate, who will treat us with the same liberality, will deserve the thanks of the numismatic public. The description of the above cent I hope to send you in season for the Nov. number of the JOURNAL.

S. S. CROSBY.

Boston, Sept. 18th, 1869.

DR. MARIS:—DEAR SIR: It is with great reluctance that I commence this letter, for I fear you will think me inclined to repay your kindness in sending me the coin with ingratitude; but I beg you to suspend your judgment until you have carefully compared (as I have) your New Jersey cent with a variety, which, to say the least, very strongly resembles it in every respect with the single exception of the facing of the horse's head.

I should hardly venture to express an opinion adverse to that which you must entertain regarding this piece, were it not that I believe you to be, as I trust I am, sincere in the search after the true origin of this as well as of all of the colonial coins. I will therefore state what my examination and comparisons lead me to believe. I was at first struck with the position of the plough in relation to the head; this, upon all coins of this series known to me, is, to use a somewhat awkward expression, invariably found to face the same way as he would do if drawing the plough. In your piece the reverse is the case. This of course did not excite any suspicion in my mind, but noticing the mane of the horse, it struck me that it closely resembled in its style of workmanship the wreaths upon some of the counterfeit cents of 1793, made by Smith, of which many have come under my notice within the last year: the ears, the eye, and the leaves under the head, also partake somewhat of the same style.

Pursuing my studies still further, I found the field of the coin around the head to present a depressed or "tooled" appearance, as if cut or scraped away, to leave the head in relief. These



were, with the peculiar cut of the ears, and a forelock between them, the points which excited my suspicion. I must allow that it seems next to impossible to raise a head so boldly from a surface as low as part of that worked upon (if my theory is correct) seems to have been without making a greater depression in the field than is here shown; but, when we take into consideration the "caveing" of many of these dies, as shown by coins struck from them having quite a convex surface, I am not sure but it might have been done by one so skilful in such work as was Smith, nor would it have been impossible to solder, or electrotype metal upon the surface, from which to work out a head, as has sometimes been done to get a 9 in 1799.

The question here arises, What inducement could there have been sufficient to compensate for the time and labor necessary to produce such an alteration?

It is supposed a somewhat similar work was undertaken by some person to produce a coin known in the Mickle Catalogue (No. 2352) as the "Bar Half-Cent", and, although it there brought \$18, the buyer (who informed me that it was bought by mistake) believed it to be a sheer fabrication.

The Pine Tree Shillings of 1650 also present a similar case, for the manufacture or alteration of which no adequate motive can be assigned. (I have some papers relative to the advent of these pieces into the numismatic world, which will probably soon be published.)

Might not some reason have existed (even if it did not exist in the matter of testing his own handiwork) for Smith, or some person as skilled (let us hope there are few such so disposed) to produce a coin like this, or *some* unique piece for a specific purpose, which, being answered, or *failing*, the coin was put out, regardless of its future effect? This, I think, may not unlikely have been the case. Believe me, sir, I have no object in, much less any wish to cast doubt upon this or any other coin. It is not a pleasant task to perform; but being impelled to do so by a sense of justice to you, as well as to all interested, which I think you must approve, and to state my opinion, I have undertaken to support my theory against the objections which presented themselves to my mind against it.

Now, to point out evidence confirmatory of this theory, from a coin in my own cabinet, for I should not presume to have mentioned my doubts without some such evidence: I was impressed by the familiar appearance of the reverse, it having a break in the dexter chief of the shield. This I readily identified with the reverse of my own, although the break upon yours is much more extended, proving it to have been a later impress of the die; still, this identity admits of no dispute, as you will see. The obverses, though not so readily identified, owing to so great a change as the facing occasions, yet are, I think, clearly from the same die. Not the slightest difference can I detect in the dates or the ploughs, even slight slips of the cutter at the end of the beam being visible upon both. The left end of the ground line upon which the plough rests connects with a point of the serrated border; this line in yours is a little the heaviest, having a ragged look, and a slight break under it, near the point of the ploughshare; I think these are caused by the breaking away of the sharp edge of the die along the line, thus giving it the ragged look, and being a later impression may not this die have been "caved" enough in its centre to give height of metal sufficient to raise this head? The leaves under the head, about which also I think I see traces of "tooling" (are not found upon the 1788s, though that proves nothing), agree precisely in form and position with those upon mine, but have slight stems; here the "tooling" appears.

The head has already been considered, but I will add that the *front* of the neck on yours rests upon the turban, as does the *back* of the neck on mine. The forms and positions of the letters of the legend I have also carefully compared, and find them to agree, with such slight variations as may be accounted for by wearing or bruising, mine being somewhat defaced. Slight marks at the top of the *Æ*, as if an attempt was first made to place those letters a little higher, also a slight mark above the left curve of the *S*, about midway between that letter and the border, appears on both, and on both also the letter *A*, at the end of the legend, is lower than the other letters, and somewhat irregular in its form. One more point of resemblance and I finish. The points of the serrated border, just over the *A* of "Nova", and one point at its right are quite long; those next following are much shorter, and not as near the legend at the commencement of the next word, though they approach the legend somewhat near its end.

In view of so many points of resemblance, I can come to no other conclusion than that some skilful artisan has cut a head in reversed position, either having sufficient metal there, or obtaining it by soldering or electrotype process.

I send with your own my specimen, that you may, without trouble of search, follow my comparisons. The coin reached me too late for exhibition at the meeting, but I have taken pains to see most of the members who were present; they were much pleased to be able to see the piece. I mentioned to only one of them my opinion of it, and to him *sub rosa*, as I did not wish to spread such a report without further consideration. I also showed it to some members of the Boston Numismatic Society, who considered it to be a *rara avis*.

I have heard it said that "skepticism is one of the first requirements in an antiquarian." I hope you will not consider me as especially fitted by nature for such pursuits! \* \* \* \* \*

With many thanks for your kindness, and really much regret at writing you as I do, but hoping that you will receive it as kindly as it is intended, I am, most respectfully,

S. S. CROSBY.

P. S.— \* \* \* I have shown your coin to J. Colburn, President of the Boston Numismatic Society, and he fully coincides with me in my opinion regarding it.

S. S. C.

506 WALNUT ST., PHILADELPHIA, October 14, 1869.

PROF. CHARLES E. ANTHON, *American Numismatic Society*:

DEAR SIR: Learning that one of your contributors had written an article for your JOURNAL expressing doubts about the originality of a New Jersey coin, 1787 Horse Head left, sold in the Thorn sale in this city, 6th, 7th, and 8th September, 1869, and now in my possession, I would respectfully ask an opportunity to give a few good and substantial reasons why I believe the said coin to be a genuine piece, coined in 1787 and just as it came from the dies, wear and color excepted. Mr. S. S. Crosby of Boston, who has given the most plausible reasons for doubting the originality of the coin, makes three important points in reference to the New Jersey piece:

*First.* He is of the opinion that the horse's head may have been cut from another and similar coin and soldered on the obverse of this piece in a reversed position or head looking to the observer's left.

*Secondly.* If not soldered on, it may have been made or carved from a mass of copper, deposited on the coin by the electrotyping process.

*Thirdly.* If not accomplished by either of the above, the horse's head may have been tooled out of a bunch of copper, hammered or "hunched" up in the centre from the piece itself or that the surface was worked away from the head.

In answer to these three points I beg to state that the New Jersey copper was handed by the writer to Robert C. Davis, chemist of this city and a distinguished numismatist and numismatic expert, with the request to put the piece to any test, however severe, and prove it either a false or true coin. Mr. Davis first subjected the coin to a red heat, and by mechanical appliances endeavored to remove the horse's head, but without success. This proved that the horse's head was a part and parcel of the coin and not soldered or cemented on. Next the coin was examined carefully with magnifiers to see if the copper (which had become clean by the heating process) had been deposited on the piece by electrotyping. No evidences could be found to give color to such an idea, as the copper was all similar in appearance and the ring of the metal clear and distinct, which would not be the case if a bunch or quantity of copper had been deposited upon the centre of the coin.

*Lastly.* Was the horse's head forced up from "hunching" or punching the copper, or the surface cut away from the centre of the piece and then engraved to its present form? I cannot admit this presumption of Mr. Crosby's, as the piece was submitted to the Engraver of the U. S. Mint and the Foreman of the Die Department in that institution. Mr. Davis, wishing to test the accuracy and judgment of these experts, presented the coin as a splendid specimen of *engraved work*, when each of the above-named Mint officers examined the piece with a powerful magnifier and denied that any part of the coin was either cut, tooled, or engraved; but was struck by dies, and was an *original piece*. Wishing to know more of the history of this peculiar piece, I addressed a letter to the owner of the collection in which it was found, and received the following reply:

[COPY.]

PLAINFIELD, Oct. 9, 1869.

DEAR SIR: I have just received your letter and will answer it immediately. I remember both of those reversed Jersey cents, 1787 and 1788. I have had them both over four years, and the dark one\* I got of an old man that had a farm about three miles from here; he has since sold his farm and moved away and I think he had the piece a number of years, for in 1858 or 1859 I was building a house opposite his farm house and he used to come over and see us at our work; one day in talking about coins (as we found some coins tearing down the old house) he told me he had a lot of coins, so a few years after I went to see him and bought all he had, and that Jersey cent was among the lot, for I knew when I saw it in his lot that it was valuable.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

(Signed)

EDWARD P. THORN.

The foregoing letter is added to controvert the suggested idea that the New Jersey coin was altered by a Mr. Smith (now deceased) who was a very clever artist in producing bogus coins, and followed that pursuit a few years ago in the city of New York.

Yours, with respect,

JOHN W. HASELTINE.

\* This has reference to the 1787, which was black in color; the other piece was dated 1788 horse head left, and was a light brassy color.